

private sector. Through fair labor negotiations between the VA and medical staffs, adequate staff levels and the means for the delivery of patient care can be properly outlined. Without sufficient communication and coordination on the parts of both the VA and its medical workers, everyone will ultimately suffer, and no one more than our veterans. The physical and emotional well being of our veterans should not be marginalized and this legislation is one step towards ensuring that they receive the proper high-quality care that they deserve.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay special tribute to Mother Teresa of Calcutta in celebration of her extraordinary life.

The world has always been filled with great humanitarians, people who donate millions of dollars, and people who make their voices heard. Yet, Mother Teresa stands out in this group. She dedicated her entire adult life to caring for the terminally ill, the unwanted and unloved. Despite these people's pain and suffering, she gave them a reason to smile. Mother Teresa received her calling in 1946 and humbly spent the next 51 years devoted to helping the people of India. In 1979 she received the Nobel Peace Prize and in 1985 she received the highest U.S. civilian award, the Medal of Freedom.

Mother Teresa had love in her heart for all God's children, and for that, I am honored today to pay tribute to her.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS C. MOHR OF HILLSDALE, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Thomas C. Mohr of Hillsdale, MI as a friend, a great American, and most recently for being named Michigan's "Clerk of the Year."

Selected by a seven-member panel, Mr. Mohr was honored for over 15 years of service to the state and as the Hillsdale County Clerk. Mohr has been active in community service and is responsible for recording the official county statistics as well as criminal and civil trials in Circuit Court. Additionally, Mr. Mohr has supervised elections for the past 15 years in a most professional manner.

Thomas Mohr puts his job first and personal feelings second. It's no wonder then that the local newspaper calls him a leader of Hillsdale. Peers say he is "dependable, trustworthy, and very conservative."

Mr. Mohr has a long list of accomplishments: a former teacher in Litchfield, a U.S. Navy Veteran, township clerk, county commissioner, and father of two. In addition to his County Clerk duties he serves as the treasurer for the Michigan Association of County Clerks. He received his Bachelor of Science degree

from Central Michigan University and Masters in Public Administration.

Mr. Mohr sets an example for all of us as he has quietly gone about his life and work. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "The first duty of an American citizen, then, is that he shall work in politics; his second duty is that he shall do that work in a practical manner; and his third is that it shall be done in accord with the highest principles of honor and justice." Thomas C. Mohr has done just that.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Historically Black College and Universities of the Second District of South Carolina. Benedict College, South Carolina State University and Claflin University serve more than 10,000 minority students seeking a better future for themselves and their families through education.

I've personally had the chance to visit many of these institutions and have seen firsthand what a tremendous job they are doing in preparing our youth for the future. I have proudly cosponsored legislation to strengthen minority-serving institutions and help to break down barriers that currently prevent some students from pursuing their dreams through education. I have also cosponsored bills to assist minority-serving institutions as they participate in graduate programs under the Higher Education Act, as well as international and foreign language studies programs.

Republicans in Congress have recognized the value of schools like Benedict, SCSU, and Claflin and have increased funding by 96 percent and by 172 percent for Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGIs) since 1995. This year, HBCUs received \$214 million and the HBGI program received \$53.4 million. The House-passed spending measure for next year adds another \$10 million for HBCUs, bringing funding to nearly \$225 million.

And earlier this year the House approved legislation, the Ready to Teach Act, to strengthen the nation's teacher training programs, including creation of "Centers of Excellence" at minority-serving institutions to bolster teacher quality and training.

The strong leadership provided by Presidents Dr. David Holmes Swinton of Benedict College, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. of South Carolina State University, and Dr. Henry N. Tisdale of Claflin University combined with Congress' commitment to increase access to college for all Americans will ensure a brighter future for the students of South Carolina's Second District.

HONORING THE GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY PIONEER CLASS OF 1967

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Grand Valley State University Pioneer Class of 1967. The first graduating class of Grand Valley State University assembled on the Allendale Campus in September, 1963. There were 226 members of the class, with 156 ultimately graduating with baccalaureate degrees from the institution. The college in that first year consisted of only two fully completed buildings: Lake Michigan Hall and the Seidman House student center. During the four-year journey of the Pioneer Class through Grand Valley State College (as it was then known), the campus was constantly changing as new buildings and facilities were added.

The class was comprised primarily of students from the West Michigan area who were carefully selected for academic aptitude and other indicators of potential success at the new, largely non-residential college. They concentrated and succeeded in their college programs despite the distractions of the increasing turmoil of the Vietnam War and the American cultural revolution that began in the mid-1960s.

The students were challenged by a rigorous curriculum, coupled with shortages of facilities and equipment, rudimentary library and audiovisual resources, and a virtual absence of traditional student life opportunities during their four years on the campus. The college did not receive academic accreditation from the North Central Association until late in the Pioneers' senior year. Members of the Pioneer Class competed on Grand Valley's first intercollegiate athletics teams, and inaugurated new housing, arts, writing, intramural sports, and community service programs at the college. They truly paved the way for generations of Grand Valley students to come.

Nevertheless, the Pioneer Class met all academic expectations and graduated in June, 1967. Class members have gone on to succeed in business, industry, education, religion, science and government. They met the challenges of life and study at the new college and are the first in a long line of distinguished, accomplished graduates from what has become a major regional institution of higher learning.

They are saluted upon the occasion of the 40th anniversary of their arrival at Grand Valley with a gala reunion in connection with Grand Valley State University's Homecoming 2003 on Oct. 3 and 4. The theme of this year's celebration honors them and all those who came after them at Grand Valley: "Grand Valley State University: A Pioneering Spirit."

INTERDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the attention of this body to an event